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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059725
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059725

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DESAI, MORARJI)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DATES FOR DESAI VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: NEW DELHI 3069

1. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING VIA SEPTEL THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO DESAI'S LETTER OF FEBRUARY 7. IN HIS LETTER, THE PRESIDENT WILL PROPOSE THAT DESAI VISIT THE U.S. ON EITHER MAY 26 OR JUNE 13 AND 14. FOLLOWING RECEIPT AND DELIVERY OF THE LETTER YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER, EXPRESSED IN HIS LETTER OF FEBRUARY 7, TO ADJUST THE TIMING OF HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) TO HIS VISIT TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 059725

WASHINGTON. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, IN AN EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WE UNDERSTAND HAD EARLIER PLANNED TO ADDRESS THE SPECIAL SESSION IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, THE PRESIDENT COULD SET ASIDE MAY 26 TO RECEIVE DESAI IN WASHINGTON. (THE PRESIDENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE OUT OF THE CITY FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AND WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING ON MAY 30-31.) ALTERNATIVELY,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE DESAI ON JUNE 13 AND 14.

2. TENTATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE DATES PROPOSED, IN BARE OUTLINE, WOULD LOOK AS FOLLOWS:

(A) MAY 26.

-- DESAI COULD BE RECEIVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON ON THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING OF MAY 25 AND ESCORTED DIRECTLY TO BLAIR HOUSE, WHERE HE WOULD SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY AND EVENING. THIS WOULD ENSURE ADEQUATE REST BEFORE THE OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS GOT UNDER WAY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

-- ARRIVAL CEREMONY - 10:30 A.M., MAY 26.

-- MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER UNTIL NOON.

-- LUNCHEON HOSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

-- WORKING DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

(B) JUNE 13-14. THE TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST DAY, JUNE 13, WOULD FOLLOW THE SAME OUTLINE GIVEN ABOVE. THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 059725

ONLY OFFICIAL ADDITION WOULD BE A SECOND MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE 14TH. THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY COULD BE FILLED IN WITH MEETINGS ON THE HILL, A POSSIBLE APPEARANCE BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES, ETC.

3. IN SEEKING A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME FOR THE VISIT, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE ILLUSTRATIVE PROGRAMS OUTLINED ABOVE AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

-- IN VIEW OF DESAI'S EXPECTATION TO MEET WITH CONGRESSMEN DURING HIS VISIT, HE SHOULD KNOW THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SENATE WILL BE OUT OVER THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TO JUNE 5. THE HOUSE ALSO PLANS TO BE OUT OVER THE WEEKEND BUT CURRENTLY PLANS TO RECONVENE ON MAY 31.

-- SIMILARLY, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE PUBLIC APPEARANCES FOR DESAI OVER THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BEFORE GROUPS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

-- OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE U.S. ENTAIL THE USG PAYING FOR

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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THE EXPENSES OF AN OFFICIAL PARTY OF 12 PEOPLE FOR A PERIOD OF SIX NIGHTS. (THIS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, INCLUDE

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAY IN NEW YORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPEARING BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT UNLESS IT TAKES PLACE AFTER THE WASHINGTON PORTION.)

-- THUS, SHOULD THE PRIME MINISTER DECIDE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SSOD BEFORE MAY 26, THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE VISIT WOULD BEGIN WITH THE TRANSPORT OF DESAI AND HIS OFFICIAL PARTY TO WASHINGTON VIA A PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT.

-- A PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS OFFICIAL PARTY SHOULD HE WISH TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 059725

VISIT SITES IN THE U.S. OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON.

-- WORKING DINNERS IN THE WHITE HOUSE ARE GENERALLY SMALL AFFAIRS, WITH GUESTS NORMALLY SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE VISITOR'S COUNTRY.

4. WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER EITHER OF THE PROPOSED DATES ARE CONVENIENT TO DESAI. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN WHETHER DESAI IS INTERESTED IN COMING ON MAY 26 BECAUSE THERE ARE OTHER REQUESTS PENDING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TIME ON THAT DATE. IF A RESPONSE WILL BE DELAYED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ESTIMATE OF ROUGHLY WHEN ONE CAN BE EXPECTED.
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